

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8818

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 3694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRT, JA

SUBJ: ANTITRUST: WESTINGHOUSE/MITSUBISHI CASE

REF: STATE 58422, STATE A-844

1. EMBASSY HAS CONSULTED WITH GOJ (KATO, COUNSELOR TO CHAIRMAN, FAIR TRADE COMMISSION, AND KAWASHIMA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SECOND NORTH AMERICA DIVISION, FONOFF) CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING INTERVIEW WITH MR. ABE PER REPAIR. GOJ OFFICIALS RAISED NO OBJECTION, UPON UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS UP TO MR. ABE WHETHER HE DESIRES TO COOPERATE AND THAT INTERVIEW WOULD BE PURELY INFORMAL AND NOT IN ITSELF PART OF A LEGAL PROCEEDING.

2. EMBOFF THEN CONTACTED ABE, AFTER TOUCHING BASE WITH TOKYO BRANCH MANAGER OF HIS PRESENT EMPLOYER, RAY-O-VAC INTERNATIONAL CORP. ABE, SPEAKING ENGLISH IN PHONE CONVERSATION, EXPRESSED DIFFIDENCE ABOUT PROCEEDING WITH INTERVIEW. HE SAID HE STILL FEELS LOYALTY TO MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CO., WHERE HE WAS EMPLOYED FOR 38 YEARS PRIOR TO HIS RETIREMENT, AND IS STILL QTE IN THE HANDS OF A LAWYER UNQTE--AN ATTORNEY OF BAKER AND MC KENZIE TOKYO OFFICE. HE SAID HE WISHED TO CONSULT THE LAWYER, WHOM HE DID NOT NAME, BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER AND AGREED TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF INTERVIEW WITH EMBOFF AGAIN THEREAFTER. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO USE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING WESTINGHOUSE CASE.

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3. EMBOFF (PRICKETT) PLANS TO CONTACT ABE AGAIN AFTER
BRIEF INTERVAL AND TO SEEK INTERVIEW ACCOMPANIED BY
EMBASSY LOCAL ASSISTANT/INTERPRETER. WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT OR JUSTICE MAY HAVE RE
CONDUCT OF INTERVIEW.
HODGSON

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